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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2014

(27 to 31 January 2014, New York)

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2014/1
UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation in 2013 of the UNDP gender equality strategy, which is the final oral report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2008-2013;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of UNDP in implementing the gender equality strategy since 2008, and in achieving concrete gender equality development and institutional results;

3. *Takes note* of the new UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, which defines an ambitious agenda for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment across all areas of the work of UNDP, while respecting the mandates given by the relevant resolutions dealing with gender equality issues, as adopted by the main bodies of the United Nations system, including General Assembly resolutions;

4. *Commends* UNDP for carrying out a consultative and participatory process in preparing the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of UNDP to align its gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, with the gender-related mandates of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

6. *Welcomes* the structure and framework of the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, including its proposed entry points and explanations of how gender equality will be integrated into each outcome of the UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017, and also welcomes the outline of the institutional arrangements supporting the integration of gender equality considerations into the activities of UNDP;

7. *Recognizes* that the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, provides strategic guidance to UNDP business units to mainstream gender as they implement the UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017;

8. *Requests* UNDP to take into account country-level dialogue about national priorities and needs, as reflected in programming instruments at country level, while implementing the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, in programme countries;

9. *Takes note* of the inclusion of the institutional effectiveness monitoring matrix for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of institutional results;

10. *Urges* UNDP to implement the gender architecture, as outlined in its gender equality strategy, 2014-2017;

11. *Appreciates* that the new UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, builds upon the achievements of the previous strategy and, in particular, builds upon the range of institutional accountability and reporting mechanisms;

12. *Appreciates* the commitment of UNDP to addressing gender parity for staff at all levels of the organization through the recently developed gender parity strategy, 2014-2017, and requests UNDP to further improve gender parity at mid-to-senior levels, as well as to take steps to ensure the representation, at all staff levels, and at headquarters,

regional and country levels, of women from programme countries, keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation;

13. *Encourages* UNDP to expand gender steering and implementation mechanisms at the regional level in order to monitor the implementation of the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017;

14. *Notes* that paragraph 48 of the gender equality strategy will be replaced by the following paragraph: "All country offices will present a plan to ensure they have the necessary gender expertise for their specific programme and country context, noting that offices with a portfolio over $25 million (at current funding levels, 40 country offices) would be expected to have a dedicated gender adviser in their office or equivalent dedicated capacity, bearing in mind that resource allocation is done on the basis of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in consultation with the programme country. Country offices will be encouraged to explore with partner agencies, in particular with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), opportunities to leverage their expertise.";

15. *Urges* UNDP to implement the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, in a manner that ensures complementarity and avoids duplication through effective cooperation, collaboration and information-sharing to maximize synergies with other organizations of the United Nations system, especially UN-Women and other relevant stakeholders;

16. *Encourages* UNDP while implementing the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, to assess innovative approaches, including access to enabling technologies as a means to empower women;

17. *Requests* UNDP to align reporting of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, with the annual reporting of the UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017, and to report to the Executive Board on the implementation, performance and results of the gender equality strategy, 2014-2017, beginning at its annual session 2015.

31 January 2014

2014/2
UNDP global programme, 2014-2017

The Executive Board,

1. *Approves* the UNDP global programme, 2014-2017 (DP/GP/3 and DP/GP/3/Corr.1);

2. *Emphasizes* that the UNDP global programme should focus on the highest priority and overarching goal of poverty eradication and reduction of inequalities and exclusion, and contribute to the outcomes of the UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017:

(a) Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded;

(b) Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance;

(c) Countries have strengthened institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services;

(d) Faster progress is achieved in reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment;

(e) Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict, and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change;

(f) Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways are achieved in post-conflict and post-disaster settings;

(g) Development debates and actions at all levels prioritize poverty, inequality and exclusion, consistent with our engagement principles;

3. *Requests* UNDP to improve, in consultation with Member States, the quality of the results and resources framework of the global programme in order to capture the specific contributions of the global programme to the overarching vision of the UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017;

4. *Decides* that UNDP will take into account the areas of capacity building and resource mobilization for development, among others, which aim to achieve the eradication of poverty in accordance with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

5. *Acknowledges* that document DP/GP/3/Corr.1 should not entail any operational implications.

31 January 2014

2014/3
UNDP regional programme documents for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014-2017

The Executive Board,

1. *Welcomes* the new regional programmes as an important step to improve the implementation of the new strategic plan;

2. *Encourages* strong coordination among the regional programmes in order to further improve coherence and comparability in implementing the programmes, and to ensure a clear and operational division of labour at global, regional and country levels.

30 January 2014

2014/4
A. Change of name of the Evaluation Office to the Independent Evaluation Office (UNDP)

The Executive Board,

1. *Recognizes* that the UNDP Evaluation Policy (DP/2011/3) promotes structural independence of the evaluation function;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to safeguard the independence of the UNDP Evaluation Office and to clarify this status to stakeholders;

3. *Approves,* with immediate effect, a change of name from the UNDP Evaluation Office to the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office.

B. Medium-term evaluation plan (UNDP)

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* its decision 2013/15 requesting the Evaluation Office to provide a detailed workplan that fully integrates the new UNDP strategic plan, 2014-2017;

2. *Notes with appreciation* document DP/2014/5, Evaluation Office of UNDP: medium-term evaluation plan, 2014-2017, which presents a comprehensive view of planned evaluations and other evaluation-related activities for the period of the UNDP strategic plan;

3. *Requests* that the management of UNDP allocate adequate and timely funding for the full implementation of the medium-term evaluation plan, 2014-2017, at global, regional and country levels;

4. *Also requests* that management at all levels enhance efforts to use evaluations to improve programme results and performance, and to make the programmes more results-oriented and more efficient;

5. *Looks forward* to the annual report on evaluation and the management response, to be presented at the annual session 2014 of the Executive Board;

6. *Underscores* the importance of the support of the Evaluation Office to country offices in conducting decentralized evaluations in order to continue to enhance their quality, and looks forward to the outcome of the 2014 independent review of the UNDP evaluation policy.

30 January 2014

2014/5
Transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014-2015 (UNFPA)

The Executive Board,

1. *Welcomes* the UNFPA transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014-2015 (DP/FPA/2014/2);

2. *Notes with appreciation* the transparent and participatory consultative process undertaken by UNFPA in developing the transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014-2015;

3. *Approves* the UNFPA transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014-2015, as contained in document DP/FPA/2014/2, including its approach; the proposed corporate evaluations, as set out in annex 1; and the proposed programme-level evaluations, as set out in annex 2;

4. *Invites* UNFPA to hold discussions with the Executive Board on areas to be evaluated in 2016-2017, taking into account the topics as set out in annex 3 of document DP/FPA/2014/2.

30 January 2014

2014/6
Expression of appreciation to Mr. Jan Mattsson, Executive Director of UNOPS, 2006-2014

The Executive Board,

1. *Notes with regret* that Mr. Jan Mattsson will retire from his position as Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) effective 31 March 2014;

2. *Recognizes* that through his leadership and vision, Mr. Mattsson and his team have transformed UNOPS, rebuilding the organization and restoring its financial credibility;

3. *Acknowledges* that through Mr. Mattsson's drive for efficiency, accountability and transparency, UNOPS has become a leader in United Nations reform and has been independently recognized as attaining world-class standards in core areas;

4. *Acknowledges* that by focusing efforts on sustainable project management, infrastructure and procurement, UNOPS has established itself as a central resource for the United Nations, governments and other partners;

5. *Further acknowledges* Mr. Mattsson's commitment to economic, social and environmental sustainability in UNOPS operations, and his strong emphasis on national ownership and capacity development;

6. *Recognizes with deep appreciation* that during his tenure as the Executive Director of UNOPS, Mr. Mattsson has exercised humility, compassion and professionalism, and in so doing, has personified the highest values of the United Nations;

7. *Commends* him for his effective and innovative leadership of UNOPS from 2006 to 2014, making the organization a visible champion of United Nations reform;

8. *Expresses* its deepest gratitude for his strong results-oriented leadership, and for his outstanding service to UNOPS and the United Nations over the course of 30 years in multiple roles, including at the highest levels as Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General;

9. *Extends* its warmest wishes to Jan Mattsson for continued good health and success in all his future endeavours.

28 January 2014

2014/7
Modifications to the procedures for considering and approving UNDP and UNFPA country programme documentation

The Executive Board,

1. *Endorses* the proposed modification to the procedures for considering and approving country programme documentation (DP/2014/8 and DP/FPA/2014/3), subject to the provisions of this decision;

2. *Welcomes* the continued efforts made by the members of the United Nations Development Group towards further harmonizing and streamlining programming instruments and processes in support of country programmes of cooperation, in line with

the recommendations of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

3. *Stresses* that the programming process for UNDP and UNFPA cooperation should continue to emphasize national ownership;

4. *Further stresses* the important role of the Executive Board in the review and approval of country programme documents;

5. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to ensure a transparent and timely consultation process with the Executive Board, to provide sufficient time for discussion, and to ensure that all comments and recommendations made by Member States with regard to the draft country programme documents be made available to Executive Board members prior to formal consideration of the country programme documents;

6. *Requests* that country programme documents continue to be developed on the basis of national plans and priorities, in consultation with national governments, the resident coordinator and other members of the United Nations country team, as well as with other relevant stakeholders at country level, in full alignment with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), where applicable, and with the respective strategic plans of UNDP and UNFPA;

7. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to reduce the number of agency-specific instruments and processes, wherever possible, in particular in 'delivering as one' countries and countries deciding to apply the standard operating procedures, including by replacing country programme action plans and annual workplans with the UNDAF and the joint workplans of the UNDAF results groups;

8. *Encourages* UNDP and UNFPA to continue to work with the United Nations Children's Fund to further harmonize their country programme document templates, associated documentation and annexes;

9. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to include the following elements in the country programme document and its annexes:

(a) an indicative budget showing the expected use of regular and other resources;
(b) a results and resources framework;
(c) information on how the results, as reflected in the results and resources framework, relate to the strategic plan and the organization-wide results framework, to national priorities, and, as applicable, to the UNDAF;
(d) a costed evaluation plan;
(e) a statement of accountability for programme results;

10. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to ensure that the results and resources frameworks are an integral part of country programme documents and to translate them accordingly;

11. *Recalls* the importance of strictly observing the resolutions and rules, such as General Assembly resolution 67/292, establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations.

30 January 2014

2014/8
Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2012

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of UNDP (DP/2014/7), UNFPA (DP/FPA/2014/1) and UNOPS (DP/OPS/2014/1) on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2012;

With regard to UNDP and UNFPA,

2. *Welcomes* the unqualified audit opinions issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2012 for UNDP and UNFPA;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress made by UNDP and UNFPA in addressing the top audit-related priorities in 2012-2013;

4. *Supports* ongoing UNDP and UNFPA management efforts in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the year that ended on 31 December 2012;

5. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to continue to strengthen internal controls and improve oversight and monitoring of country offices, including the timely implementation of outstanding recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors, and to continue to ensure compliance with policies and procedures for procurement, inventory tracking and bank reconciliation;

6. *Notes* the action being taken by UNDP and UNFPA to address the high level of unfunded after-service liabilities, and encourages further work to ensure that employee benefits liabilities have finalized funding plans;

7. *Encourages* UNDP and UNFPA to prioritize the finalization of the revised framework for the harmonized approach to cash transfers, in coordination with other members of the United Nations Development Group, and to ensure improved oversight when the revised framework is implemented;

With regard to UNOPS:

8. *Welcomes* the unqualified and unmodified audit opinion issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for the year 2012 for UNOPS;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made by UNOPS in addressing the audit-related priorities highlighted by the United Nations Board of Auditors;

10. *Supports* ongoing UNOPS management efforts to ensure that the remaining recommendations are implemented;

11. *Commends* the efforts of UNOPS management for successfully addressing the challenges faced by UNOPS in making the transition from the United Nations system accounting standards to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

30 January 2014

2014/9
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2014

The Executive Board,

Recalls that during its first regular session 2014, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2014:

President:	H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson (Fiji)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Tuvako Nathaniel Manongi (United Republic of Tanzania)
Vice-President:	Mr. Boyan Belev (Bulgaria)
Vice-President:	Mr. Vincent Herlihy (Ireland)
Vice-President:	Mr. Jonathan Viera (Ecuador)

Adopted the agenda and workplan for its first regular session 2014 (DP/2014/L.1).

Adopted the report of the second regular session 2013 (DP/2014/1) and its corrigendum (DP/2014/1/Corr.1).

Adopted the annual workplan for 2014 (DP/2014/CRP.1).

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2014.

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2014:

Annual session 2014:	23 to 27 June 2014 (Geneva)
Second regular session 2014:	2 to 5 September 2014.

UNDP segment

Item 2
Gender in UNDP

Adopted decision 2014/1 on the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017.

Item 3
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2014/2 on the UNDP global programme, 2014-2017.

Adopted decision 2014/3 on the UNDP regional programme documents for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014-2017.

Adopted decision 2014/7 on modifications to the procedures for considering and approving UNDP and UNFPA country programme documentation.

Approved the following final country programme documents on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion, in accordance with decisions 2001/11 and 2006/36:

Africa region: Namibia;
Latin America and the Caribbean region: Mexico.

Item 4
South-South cooperation

Took note of and approved the strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017.

Item 5
Evaluation (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2014/4 on the: (a) change of name of the Evaluation Office to the Independent Evaluation Office; and (b) medium-term evaluation plan.

Item 9
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Took note of the response to the Executive Board on decision 2013/28 on additional resources for security measures.

Item 10
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Took note of the UNCDF strategic framework, 2014-2017, and the preliminary results for 2013.

UNFPA segment

Item 6
Evaluation (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2014/5 on the transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014- 2015.

Took note of the joint evaluation report on the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on female genital mutilation/cutting: accelerating change.

Item 7
Country programmes and related matters

Adopted decision 2014/7 on modifications to the procedures for considering and approving UNDP and UNFPA country programme documentation.

Approved the following final country programme documents:

East and Southern Africa region: Namibia (DP/FPA/CPD/NAM/5);

Latin America and the Caribbean region: Mexico (DP/FPA/CPD/MEX/6).

UNOPS segment

Adopted decision 2014/6 on appreciation to Mr. Jan Mattsson, UNOPS Executive Director, 2006-2014.

Joint segment

Item 8
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2014/8 on the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2012.

Item 11
Field visits

Took note of the report of the field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to Tajikistan, 24 to 30 June 2013 (DP-FPA/2014/CRP.1).

Joint meeting

Held a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP on 3 February 2014, which addressed the following topics: (a) performance standards on gender mainstreaming across the strategic plans, 2014-2017, of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP; and (b) coherence of United Nations action against poverty and vulnerability and towards resilience.

Also held the following briefings and informal consultations:

UNDP

Informal consultation on the status of the UNDP results frameworks and the UNDP country office support initiative;

Informal consultation on the United Nations Volunteers strategic framework, 2014-2017.

UNFPA

Informal consultation on the strategic framework of the UNFPA global and regional interventions, 2014-2017;

Informal briefing on the global programme for reproductive health commodity security, II

Informal briefing on UNFPA work on youth and adolescents.

UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

Briefing on the follow-up to the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
ANNUAL SESSION 2014
(23 - 27 June 2014, Geneva)

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Monday, 23 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2014 **UNDP SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
		2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR • Annual report of the Administrator: performance and results for 2013, including report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review • UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2013 • Statistical annex
	3 – 6 p.m.	2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR (continued)
		3	UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2014-2017 • Finalized indicators, baselines, milestones and targets (decision 2013/12)
		4	FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNDP • Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2014 and onwards
	6 – 7 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Tuesday, 24 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		10	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Report of the Executive Director: progress in implementing the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017 (including an update on the implementation of decision 2013/5) • Statistical and financial review, 2013 • UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2013
	3 – 6 p.m.	10	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (continued)
		19	UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2014-2017 • Strategic framework of the UNFPA global and regional interventions, 2014-2017 (decision 2013/41)
		11	FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNFPA • Report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2014 and future years
	6 – 7 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Wednesday, 25 June	10 – 11:30 a.m.		**UNOPS SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		15	• Annual report of the Executive Director
	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP segment (continued)**
		8	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND • Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2013

	3 – 6 p.m.	9	UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS • United Nations Volunteers: Report of the Administrator
	6 – 7 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Thursday, 26 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT**
		16	INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT • Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations and management responses
		17	REPORTS OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS ETHICS OFFICES • Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities for 2013, and the management responses
		18	FIELD VISITS • Reports on field visits
	3 – 6 p.m.		**UNDP segment (continued)**
		5	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT • Update on Human Development Report consultations (General Assembly resolution 57/264)
		7	EVALUATION • Annual report on evaluation and management response
	6 - 7 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Friday, 27 June	10 – 11:30 a.m.	6	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Draft country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA segment (continued)**
		12	UNFPA COUTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Draft country programme documents and extensions of country programmes
	3 – 5 p.m.	13	EVALUATION • Annual report of the UNFPA Evaluation Office (decision 2013/21) and the management response
		14	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS • Revised UNFPA oversight policy • Revised UNFPA Financial Regulations and Rules
	5 – 6 p.m.	20	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2014 • Closing of the session